

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Attorney Docket No. Q77903

U.S. Application No. 10/694,392

REMARKS

Applicant's statement of substance of interview.

Applicants wish to express appreciation to Examiner Anita K. Alenko for the courtesy of an interview which was granted to Applicant's representative Michael Faibisch (Reg. No. 48,427). A personal interview was conducted at the USPTO on June 29, 2006. The substance of the interview is set forth in the Examiner's Interview Summary, numbered Paper No. 20060629, which reflects what transpired in the interview. Applicant has no further comments to add, and adopts the examiner's interview summary as Applicant's own summary.

General remarks

Claims 56 – 63, 65 - 75, 77, 78, 111-116, and 126-136 are pending in the application. Claims 79, 117 – 125 and 137, indicated as being withdrawn, are presently canceled.

Applicants have carefully studied the outstanding Office Action in the present application. The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 USC §112

Claims 56 – 78 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph. These claims have been suitably amended to clarify that the film is semi-conductive and that the reaction is a doping reaction.

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Prior Art Rejections

Claims 56 – 63, 66, 69-70, 72-75, 77-78, 111-113, 115-116, and 126-136 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Zhang (US 5,938,839).

Claims 64-65, and 76 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Zhang (US 5,938,839) and Downey (US 2003/0194509).

Claims 71 and 114 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Zhang (US 5,938,839).

Claims 56-78, 111-116, and 126-136 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Zhang (US 5,938,839) and Gross et al. (WO 03/017344).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of these claims.

Zhang shows and describes a method for forming a semiconductor device in which a surface of a semiconductor is irradiated through a mask in an atmosphere comprising an impurity of one conductivity type.

Downey shows and describes methods for chemical formation of thin film laers using short-time thermal processes. Processing parameters for short time thermal processing of a doped surface layer are selected to produce a reaction between the surface layer and a dopant material to form a dielectric film, a metal film or a silicide film.

Gross et al. shows and describes a system and method for generating thin film transistors including irradiating an amorphous silicon layer on a substrate surface with a non-excimer laser to form mutually spaced apart silicon crystals on the substrate surface.

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Independent claims 56, 111 and 126 have each been amended, as shown above, to point out that the selectable locations are selected using a plurality of independently tiltable beam steering elements. Support for this amendment is found at paragraph [0026] of the published specification, *inter alia*.

As pointed out in the interview held on June 29, Zhang shows and describes using masks to control the locations whereat the surface of a semiconductor is irradiated. Masks, as used by Zhang, are not, and can not reasonably be considered to be, independently tiltable beam steering elements.

With respect to the Gross publication (WO 03/071344 A1), Applicant respectfully points out the following. The document, as a publication, has a publication date of 2003-08-28. Since it is an international application filed on or after November 29, 2000, designates the United States, and is published in the English language, it has an effective date under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) of its international filing date, namely, 2003-02-24. The inventors named in the Gross publication are Abraham GROSS and Arie GLAZER. The assignee named in the Gross publication is Orbotech Ltd.

In the present application, the assignee is Orbotech Ltd. The inventors are Arie GLAZER and Abraham GROSS. Priority is from US Provisional Application 60/421,555 dated 2002-10-28.

Date	Present application	Gross publication	Action
2002-10-28	X		Provisional application 60/421,555
2003-02-24		X	International application filed
2003-08-28		X	International application published
2003-10-28	X		Present application filed in the US

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The Gross publication is not a reference with respect to any of the claims of this patent application that are fully supported in the provisional application in view of the earlier priority date from which this application benefits.

Even if it were the case (which it is not) that some of the claims in the present application were not fully supported in the provisional application, the Gross publication is still not a reference with respect to any of such claims. This is because the subject matter of both was developed by the identical inventive entity, and the Gross publication is not a reference under 35 U.S.C. § 102b.

Since the Gross publication is not a reference with respect to any of the pending claims, this rejection of Zhang in view of Gross is literally moot. The withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the deficiencies of Zhang in showing and describing all of the limitations of claims 56, 111 and 126, as amended, are not remedied by any of the other cited prior art of record.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 56, 111 and 126 are deemed patentable over the prior art properly cited against these claims, and thus respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of these claims.

Claims 57 – 63, 66, 69-70, 72-75, 77-78, 112-113, 115-116, and 127-136 each depend, directly and ultimately, from one of claims 56, 111 and 126 and are patentable at least by virtue

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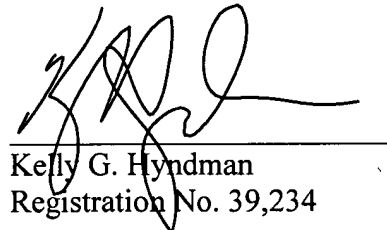
of their dependency from a patentable main claim. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of these claims as well.

Conclusion and request for telephone interview

In view of the foregoing, this application is believed to be in order. Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below prior to taking further action on this matter.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: July 7, 2006